REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of the office action dated December 12, 2007, and completion of the personal interview of January 18, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein.

Claims 19-20, 22, 24-26, 28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 19-20, 22, 24-26, 28, and 30 have been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971 to Owa et al. (*hereinafter*, "Owa") in view of well known prior art. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14, and 16-18 are currently pending.

The subject application is directed to a system and method for optimized routing of printing. A print job is commenced to a print port associated with a client machine and print job data is queued. A prompt is issued to an associated user for print optimization authority and the print job data is communication to the print port so as to generate a printout therefrom. Status data is received from each of the plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a resource commitment level of each associated printer device relative to prior print job requests associated therewith. A print optimization instruction is received from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated print device for printing as well as delay criteria data corresponding to an acceptable delay period associated with commencement of the print job. The status data is tested data against selected test criteria and received delay criteria data to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing. The print job data is selectively redirected from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with a print optimization instruction and an output of the testing.

The subject application therefore teaches a system and method by which an application suitably sends a print job to a default printer port. A user chooses to optimize a timing of receiving a printout by active selection of print optimization. This allows a user an option to secure a print as quickly as possible when such is desired, or allow for printing in a normal course when timing is not critical. In this fashion, extra resources, including printer resource and

network traffic, are not committed for optimization when it is unnecessary. Additionally, since selected optimization is accomplished by port redirection, then individual applications which direct outputs to a port require no further modification.

Owa is directed to a printing optimization system. Owa is cited as teaching a system for monitoring a status of each of plural printers, including information relative data awaiting printing. As noted during the interview, Owa fails to teach a system wherein a user is allowed to specify certain parameters, such as an acceptable length of delay associated with a primary printer, which should be met before an alternative printer designation will be made. In an embodiment wherein a primary printer is conveniently located, while one or more alternative printers is located at an inconvenient distance away, a user may suitably choose to wait for a printout at the primarily desired location. No such user-directed print parameters are taught or contemplated by Owa.

In accordance with forgoing, amendment has been made to each of independent claims 1 and 10. In view of these amendments, all claims include limitations directed to the advantageous teachings of the subject application, noted above. Accordingly, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance thereover.

An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/00020.

Respectfully submitted,

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